PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number. :

09/992,392

Confirmation Number. : 7757

Applicants Filed

David K. Locke et al. November 6, 2001

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Examiner

Christina M. Marks

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Customer Number

30,223

Mail Stop No Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 C.F.R. 1.8

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9/23/2004

Date

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION **MAILED JUNE 25, 2004**

Dear Commissioner:

This paper is being submitted in reply to the Office Action, mailed June 25, 2004, for which the three-month date for response is September 25, 2004. In response to the Office Action mailed June 25, 2004, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following amendments and to consider the following remarks.

The Applicants' Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

The Applicants' Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.